



AN INDEPENDENT POLITICAL AND SATIRICAL JOURNAL.

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The gravest Beast is the Ass; the gravest Bird is the Owl;
The gravest Fish is the Oyster; the gravest Man is the Fool.

Cartoon Comments.

LEADING CARTOON.—Mr. Blake, the politician whose past record is so besmeared with Goderich Harbor Jobs, "Speak now" intrigues, "Friend Moore" letters, and general slime and corruption (as every intelligent person must be aware), has gone to the Maritime Provinces for the alleged purpose of sowing the seeds of discontent and rebellion against the powers that be. The *Mail*, which has the true interests of the people at heart, conserves those interests by sending an *avant courier* to warn the people of the approach of this dangerous character, and GRIP, in his picture this week, simply depicts this interesting episode.

FIRST PAGE.—The House of Commons refused to grant the appropriation asked for to pay the debts of the Prince of Wales, and His Royal Highness is left in the unpleasant predicament here pictured. As the debts were largely contracted on the Queen's account, it seems only reasonable to suggest that Her Majesty should come to the rescue of her dutiful boy.

EIGHT PAGE.—Jay Gould's bold attempt to get possession of the telegraph lines of this country has alarmed the public. The scheme has been happily thwarted up to the present writing, but there is no knowing what the end may be. Mr. Gould is not the sort of man to give up if he sees any chance of success, and as a *wire-puller* he stands unrivalled. Meantime Miss Canada defends herself vigorously and all her children will wish more power to her elbow!

The movement for Reciprocity, or in plain language Protection, is going on vigorously in England, and may yet develop into a great big elephant like our own N. P. The coincidence of Sir John's presence in the Old Country at this juncture naturally suggested this cartoon.

Editorial Notes.

The Canadian Press Association will start on their annual excursion on Tuesday, August 2. The route is from Port Hope (where the annual meeting will be held) to Peterborough, Lindsay, Bobcaygeon, Waubausheon, Midland, Parry Sound, and Penetanguishene. The trip will extend over one week, and is likely to prove one of the most interesting and enjoyable (as well as inexpensive) yet undertaken.

The Norcross Opera Company continue their successful performances at the Pavilion. The new opera, *Mascot*, which was produced for the first time here on Monday night, proved a great hit.

Our readers will observe some alterations in the general make up of GRIP, which we trust will meet with their approval. Business men are alive to the fact that Gurr's great circulation and popularity, taken in connection with its convenient size, render it a highly valuable medium for reaching the public. It is to accommodate the increase of advertising patronage, with which we are now favored, that we have added the cover, which at the same time will serve to protect the outer pages of the paper.

Perhaps a measure of GRIP's increased popularity of late (as indicated both in the subscription and advertising departments) is due to the generous action of the *Mail* and some other prominent journals, who, through a mistaken notion of policy, have endeavored to injure the paper. We have no reason to entertain anything but thankfulness for these attacks,—for had we attempted to get the articles written on a business basis, they would have cost us at least twenty-five cents a line.

The charge made against GRIP by the *Mail* is that it has unduly favored the Grit party, and is therefore a "Grit organ." We challenged our critic to point out any occasions missed on which we might fairly have attacked the Grits. After four weeks of due deliberation, our contemporary comes forward with its reply to our challenge, which is that the undermentioned occurrences afforded fair chances of such attacks and were allowed to pass by unnoticed.

1. When Mr. Blake wrote the "Speak now" letter.
2. When Mr. Blake "rib-stabbed" his leaders Brown, McKellar, and Mackenzie in the Local House.
3. When Mr. Blake acted an unworthy part in connection with the Manitoba disturbances.
4. When Mr. Blake shammed sickness to avoid giving his decision (as Minister of Justice) against Speaker Anglin who had transgressed against the Independence of Parliament Act.
5. When Mr. Blake persistently and truculently "rib-stabbed" Sir John A. Macdonald, charging the latter with what he (Blake) knew Sir John to be innocent of.
6. When Mr. Blake wrote the letter introducing "his friend" Moore to Mr. Mackenzie, though assuring Moore that he would receive no preference from Mackenzie on account of this introduction; when, as it turned out, Moore got a contract at \$30,000 above the lowest tender.
7. When Mr. Blake waded through slime and corruption to office, bargaining with traitors, and endorsing transactions for which Mr. Mackenzie's promises were not considered sufficient.
8. When Mr. Blake endeavored to get Parliament to withhold its sanction from the Syndicate bargain and consider the offer made by Messrs. Howland, Walker, et al.

9. When Mr. Blake "rib-stabbed" Liberal Conservative members of Parliament in his Montreal speech, or when he retailed and distorted private conversations with Conservative M.P.'s in his Toronto banquet speech.

As to Nos. 1, 2, and 3, the occurrences alluded to were prior to the establishment of GRIP No. 4. A cartoon showing up the Anglin affair appeared on Saturday, Sept. 9th, 1876, GRIP, Vol. 7, No. 16. No. 5 is too vague and indefinite; if the *Mail* will state exactly what it alludes to and give the date of this rib-stabbing, we will be in a position to reply. No. 6. We do not see anything necessarily corrupt in Mr. Blake's action in this matter; if, however, Mackenzie corruptly gave Moore the contract, he deserved to be shown up. Mackenzie's explanations as to why he did not give the contract to the lowest tender in this case were satisfactory to us, just as similar explanations by Conservative Ministers of Public Works in like cases (which we can quote if necessary) have been satisfactory. No. 7. This is stated too vaguely. If it is the Huntington affair that is alluded to, cartoons reflecting the Conservative view of that action were published July 3rd and August 30th, 1873. No. 8. In this matter GRIP thought, and still thinks, that Mr. Blake simply did his duty to the country. Many thoroughgoing Conservatives (such as Messrs. Proctor, Duraud, etc.) also take this view. No. 9. At Montreal Mr. Blake spoke strongly of his political opponents, just as Sir Charles Tupper did a few nights afterwards. If GRIP undertook to caricature this sort of thing he wouldn't have time for anything else. In his Toronto speech the "conversations" alluded to were not private. Blake repeated what certain Ministerialists had said to him on the floor of the House as to the hopelessness of his interminable amendments to the Syndicate bargain. It was simply a jest, and the point was against Blake himself.

The *Mail* concludes: "We think we have proved that GRIP, judged by a test of his own selection, has failed to 'hold the mirror up to nature impartially and justly.'" All right, Mr. *Mail*. Let us shake hands over the "bloody chasm." GRIP is willing that the decision be left to the sovereign people.

Mr. Chester Glass' work, "The World Round It and Over It," has just been published in handsome form from the press of Messrs. Belford & Co. It contains 528 pages, with 96 illustrations on wood, and will sell at \$2. The very interesting and cleverly written letters contributed to the London *Advertiser* by the author when on his travels, form the nucleus of the book, and all who delight in graphic descriptions of men and manners in out of the way quarters of the earth cannot but be pleased and instructed by its perusal. Mr. Glass is well known as a rising young barrister of the Forest City, and his many friends have reason to be proud of this first important production of his pen in the literary field. As a purely Canadian work of high intrinsic merit we cordially recommend it to the attention of our readers.